Tobari

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Translator's Notes:

because they're too long to fit into the page

HR

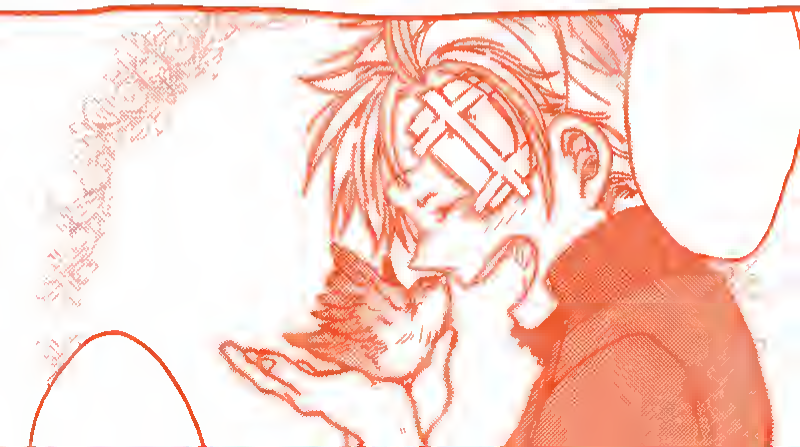
HR's short for homeroom. After the graduation ceremony, students are gathered in their homerooms for a final short meeting with teachers and parents. Some schools give out the graduation certificates in the homerooms, with only the top few students receiving theirs at the graduation ceremony on stage. –Page 21

Tsuru no Ongaeshi

Tsuru no Ongaeshi (鶴の恩返し) A Japanese folklore about a young man who saved a white crane. The white crane later transforms into a beautiful woman, marries the young man and helps him by weaving cloth. Eventually, the young man discovers that the woman is actually the crane that he has saved. But after being discovered in her true form, the white crane has no choice but to leave. –Page 25

Tobari and Hibari

While we do try not to spoil the story for you, were forced to reveal a tiny little info just so it's easier to understand the story. It's really *really* minor. Hiragana for Tobari's written like this とばり while Hibari's written like this ひばり. But for Katakana, Tobari is written like this トバリ, while Hibari's this way ヒバリ. Notice that "to (ト)" and "hi (ヒ)" is somewhat similar, that's if your handwriting is as ugly as Tobari's... –Page 31



トバリ 芦田さよう
Tobari by Ashida Kuchi
A strange place, open to anyone in trouble regardless of age or gender
That was what my home was secretly known as.
Ding Dong♪
Open
COMING
WHO IS IT?
As the eccentric owner of the house,
my name was also quite well known.
Are you Nagaoka Shunsuke? Nice to meet you.
I'm Tobari!

トリ

Tobari

芦田きょう

Kyoh Ashida

...
chew
chew
chew
Gis jye kahe jit gourjerh!
Dis ji bery burishoug.
PLEASE DON'T TALK WHILE YOU'RE EATING
They are really delicious Did you bake them yourself, Shunsuke?
I DIDN'T BAKE THEM THEY RE SOLD IN SHOPS
JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? YOU SAID YOUR NAME'S TOBARI, RIGHT?!
YEAH! I'M HUMAN!
I CAN TELL!
SIGH—
TOBARI, DO YOU PREFER COFFEE OR TEA?
Stand
UMM, ANYTHING!
ALRIGHT

I do wish those silly rows and commotions could continue on forever though
YOU CAME TO SEEK HOSPITALITY HERE,
BUT I'M SORRY TO INFORM YOU THAT WE'VE STOPPED HOSTING SINCE LAST WEEK
SHUNSUKE-KUN.
HMM?
open

I'm sorry...
NOW LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING!
I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND THAT YOU DON'T LIKE MATCHA*
SLUMP...
The green cookies here don't taste so good...

T/N: GREEN TEA

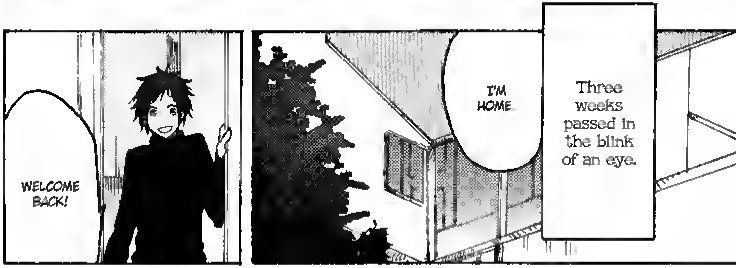
...
I'M SORRY FOR COMING SO SUDDENLY BUT—
I HAVE NO HOME TO GO BACK TO

YOU'RE SAYING YOU HAVE NO HOME?
YEAH, NONE...
...
...
—I GUESS YOU'RE NOT IN THE MOOD TO EXPLAIN NOW, RIGHT?
—LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
ALRIGHT.

Tobari was a really weird guy.
TODAY'S MARCH 2ND.
YOU CAN STAY HERE UP 'TIL THE 28TH.
Instead, he did all the house-work.
He appeared to be the same age or younger than me, but didn't look like he went to school.
He seemed to enjoy cooking so much that he made lots of dishes.
He followed me like a puppy on the way back from school, too.
Shunsuke-kun!

His reading and writing skills were horrendous.
HEY, YOUR HIRAGANA AND KATA-KANA ARE REALLY BAD.
BECAUSE THEY'RE SO DIFFICULT!
He said that those were "not necessary to know"
Tobari never spoke about himself.
But on the other hand, he asked a lot about me.
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?
WHICH SHAPE OF THE MOON DO YOU LIKE?
WHAT FOOD DO YOU LIKE?
HEY, SHUNSUKE-KUN!

SHUNSUKE-KUN?
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?
NOTHING


Three weeks passed in the blink of an eye.
I'M HOME
WELCOME BACK!

...A BIRD?
YEAH, LOOKS LIKE IT FELL FROM THE NEST
I WAS THINKING OF BURYING IT

...!
chirp chirp
tweet
tweet
...
...TOBARI,
ABOUT MY PARENTS...
HUH?
WHAT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THEM?
HUH?! I DO! I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THEM!

THEY DIED WHEN I WAS STILL REALLY YOUNG.
IN A PLANE CRASH.
I WAS LUCKY AND WAS SAVED
BUT I WAS SO SAD
THAT I CRIED 'TIL I LOST MY VOICE.
BUT...

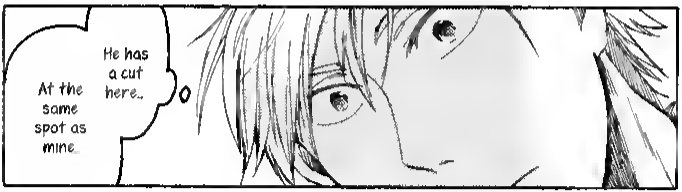
I MET A BIRD NAMED HIBARI
THERE'S NO DOUBT, IT SAVED ME THEN.
SO,
I FEEL VERY GRATEFUL TO IT.
...

SHUNSUKE-KUN,
YOU'RE SO KIND
VERY KIND...
...I'M NOT PARTICULARLY LIKE THAT, BUT...
OH WELL, SO...
I HAVE NOTHING LEFT BUT THAT HOME
AND LIKE THE BIRD AT THAT TIME,
I THOUGHT THAT IT'D BE GOOD IF MY HOUSE COULD BE A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CALL IT HOME.
BUT ANYWAY, THAT HOUSE'S GOING TO BE DEMOLISHED IN FIVE DAYS
?!
SHOCK

HUH? DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
You didn't say anything! This is the first time I'm hearing this!! Why?
YOU'RE BEING VERY NOISY
THERE'S A GUY WHO WANTS TO BUILD SOME SORT OF ESTABLISH-MENT ON THAT PIECE OF LAND
IT WAS KIND OF A MESS PREVIOUSLY. BUT IN THE END THE LAND WAS TAKEN
ANYWAY, LET'S GO BACK
Huh? W-wait a minute! Then what are you going to do?
I HAVE A GRANNY LIVING IN AMERICA
SEEMS LIKE I REALLY DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING TO YOU
_Come to think of it, it's been a long while since I thought of that bird
I wonder if it's doing well now?
Don't

you dare peek into my room!
BLOCK
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT
glare
BESIDES, 'TIL NOW I'VE NEVER PEEKED AT YOUR ROOM AT ALL
BUT, IT'S MY HOME...
As usual he's saying such ridiculous words
Saying that... then yesterday and the day before he was fumbling around in his room all night What's he doing?
HEY! SHUNSUKE!
?

open...
SHUNSUKE-KUN S HERE!
YO! SHINO-ZAKI
YOUR FREE-LOADER KID'S HERE
TOBARI!? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
What's with that jersey?
Hehehe, because...
ta-da!
you forgot your bento Shunsuke-kun!
UMM, THANK YOU AGAIN...
Can't tell him that I could've just bought something to eat
when I forgot my bento
AND,
HE FELL ASLEEP...
Wow his hair's really soft huh?
stroke stroke stroke


He has a cut here...
At the same spot as mine...

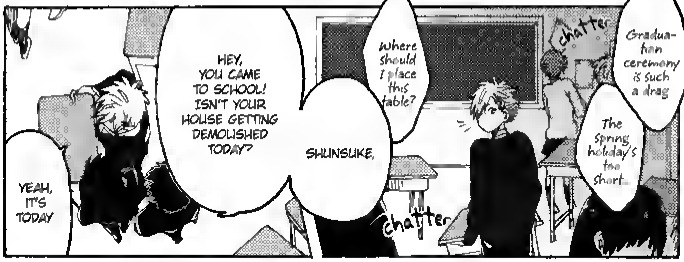
!

Oh
There's something in his pocket
A photo? Let's see...

Bwa... Haha-
Aha haha haha!
Wha-
What?!
TOBARI,
YOUR HANDWRITING IS APPALLING!
What? Shunsuke-kun is being so mean!
AHAHA, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT...OH, ANYWAY
FWUMP

YOU HAVE A CUT HERE WHAT HAPPENED?
HMM?
OH THIS? WHEN I WAS A KID I FELL FROM THE ROOF OF MY HOUSE
SHUNSUKE-KUN HAS A CUT TOO RIGHT?
OH I GOT MINE FROM THAT ACCIDENT IT'S GREAT TO SHOW OFF THOUGH
I LIKE IT
Huh? It's true that I like it too
but why ?
...I seem to have forgotten something
The day of the promise is approaching.
25
27
I still...

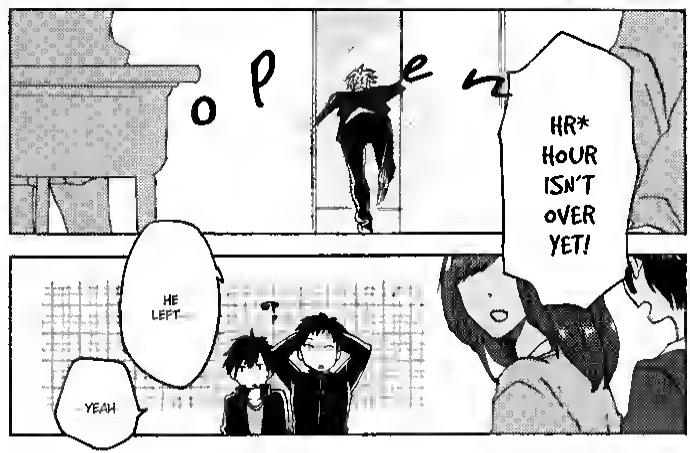
...don't know anything about Tohari.


HEY, YOU CAME TO SCHOOL! ISN'T YOUR HOUSE GETTING DEMOLISHED TODAY?
YEAH, IT'S TODAY
SHUNSUKE,
Where should I place this table?
chatter
chatter
Graduation ceremony is such a drag
The Spring holiday's too short...

AND RAN AWAY
HE LEFT ME A LETTER
TOBARI?
Chatter
Chatter
BUT HE WAS A NICE GUY, THOUGH HE WAS THE LAST TO STAY AT MY HOUSE
I'M GLAD THAT IT WAS HIM
...
THE CUT ON HIS FACE
HMM?
THE CUT
mumble
I've forgotten something very important.

ba-thump
HE SAID HE FELL FROM HIS HOUSE'S ROOF
THE HOUSE ROOF?
RIGHT, THAT'S WHY I LIKED IT
BECAUSE IT'S VERY SIMILAR TO MINE.
ba-thump
IT CAN'T BE...
THAT'S NOT—
!!
ba-thump
unfold
PULL
PHOTO?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
Ba-Thump

DASH!
SHUN-SUKE?!


o p e n
HR* HOUR ISN'T OVER YET!
HE LEFT...
YEAH

BUT IT'S WORTH CHECKING OUT
I MIGHT JUST BE MISTAKEN,
It's not possible
I'm probably just being silly.
Please let me find him.
Tobari
are you really
the one from that time?
step

CHIRP CHIRP
tweet
tweet
CHIRP CHIRP
chirp
chirp
SHUNSUKE-
-KUN?
HMM.

Wahhhh
WHAT'S WITH THESE BIRDS?! RUN!
..
chirp
SHUNSUKE-KUN
...WEREN'T YOU AT SCHOOL?
flap
flap
...THE BIRDS
flutter
THEY'RE HELPING
YEAH

I THOUGHT THAT I COULD RETURN THE FAVOR
!!
I KNEW IT! IT WAS YOU!
I WANT TO PROTECT THE HOME THAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO SHUN-SUKE
BY DOING SO,
YOU KNOW THE STORY ABOUT THE CRANE?*
IT'S A CHARM THAT BIRDS ARE ABLE TO USE ONCE.
FISHES GET A PAIR OF LEGS
BIRDS CAN SHED THEIR WINGS
I.

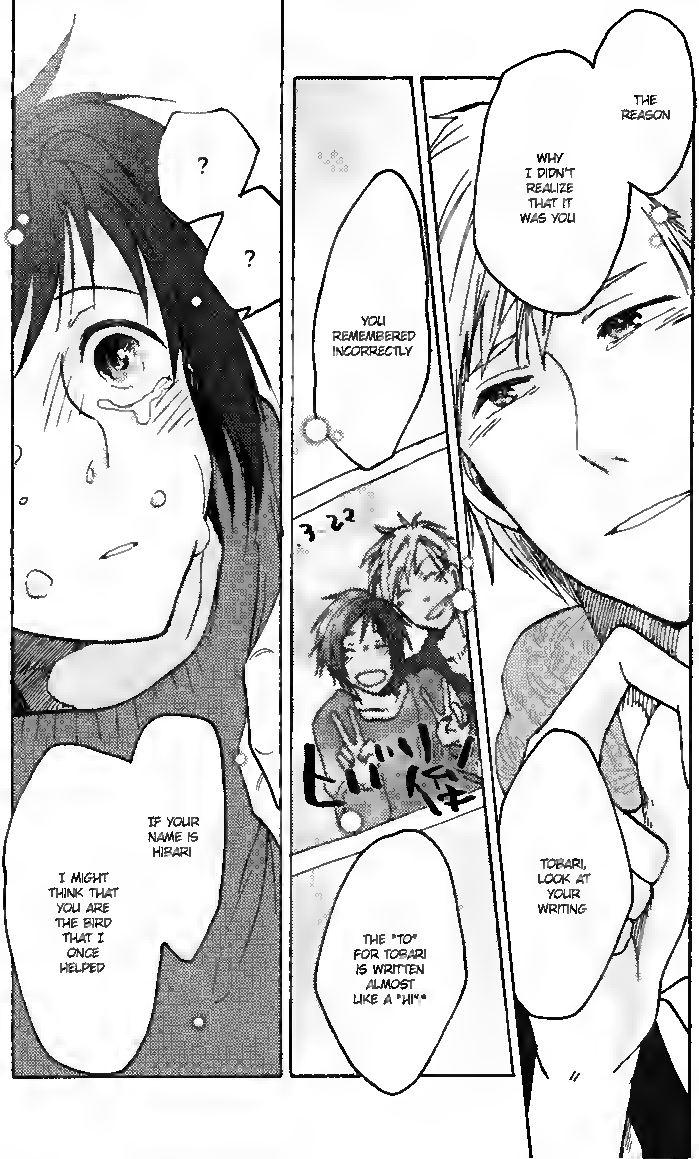
What food do you like?

YOU KNOW THE ENDING OF THE STORY, RIGHT?
'TIL NOW
WHAT?
What's your favorite color?
AND IF THE TRUE FORM IS DISCOVERED, THE RULE IS THAT WE HAVE TO LEAVE
IT ENDS WHEN THE FAVOR IS RETURNED
Which shape of the moon do you like?
I WANTED TO RETURN THE FAVOR TO YOU
BUT I DIDN'T WANT IT TO END
I WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU
BUT I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE TOO INTERESTED IN ME
Hey, Shunsuke-kun
EVERYTHING AND ALL,
I have...

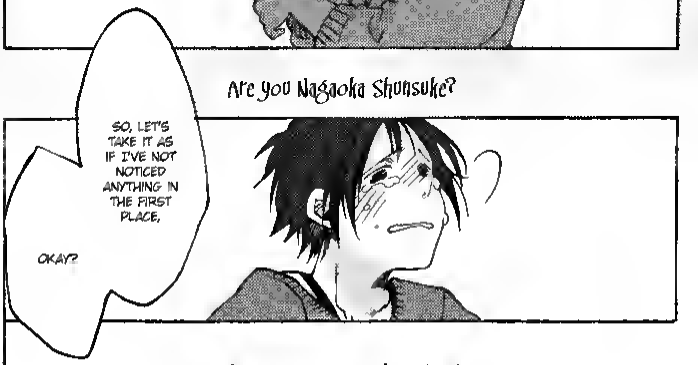
...so much I want to tell you...

STOP MESSING WITH ME!
TOBARI!
grab
YOU'RE BEING SELFISH!
PROTECTING THE HOUSE? THOSE GUYS WOULD RETURN IMMEDIATELY.
ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE ME HERE ALL ALONE AGAIN?
IN THAT CASE, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF IT?
AND EVEN IF YOU DO PROTECT IT, WHAT AM I TO DO ALONE IN THERE?
IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, IT WOULDN'T MEAN ANYTHING!

So, DON'T LEAVE TOBARI!
BUT THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE,
BECAUSE,
BECAUSE
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOME GOOD NEWS.
Finally cooled down
HUH?
THIS IS YOUR PHOTO
Oh so Shunsuke-kun has been keeping it?
OH SORRY I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO RETURN IT

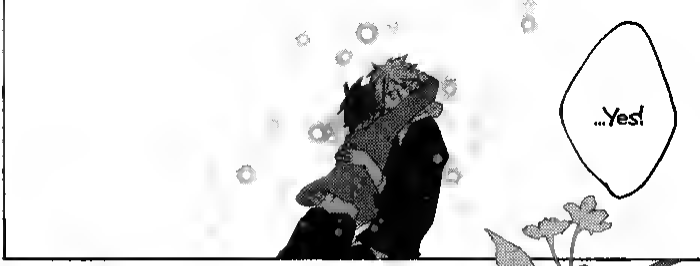

THE REASON
WHY I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT IT WAS YOU
YOU REMEMBERED INCORRECTLY
TOBARI, LOOK AT YOUR WRITING
THE "TO" FOR TOBARI IS WRITTEN ALMOST LIKE A "HI"
?
?
IF YOUR NAME IS HIBARI
I MIGHT THINK THAT YOU ARE THE BIRD THAT I ONCE HELPED

Are you Nagaoka Shunsuke?



Nice to meet you. I'm Tobari

A human.



I've always liked you, very, very much.

END